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III.—ON SOME POINTS OF USAGE IN ENGLISH.

Already in the opening pages of the instructive remarks on the Revised New Testament which Professor Short is contributing to this Journal,¹ even a rapid glance suffices to discern, where he adverts to usage in modern and in older English, a sprinkling of assertions demonstrably open to question.

Assuredly, it ought not to be, that, day by day, the fact is still practically treated as though it were not a fact, that English philology is, as yet, very far from maturity.² For a long time to come, it must be the case, just as it now is, that any industrious reader of our literature can discover things previously unrecorded, or slighted, by lexicographers, glossarists, and grammarians, of a character to modify, if not to invalidate, positions supposed to be definitively established. In these circumstances, wariness and diffidence will never be out of place. Just in proportion to their prevalence, there would seldomer be occasion to comment on hasty pronouncements, and the criticism of philologists would be dispensed from the necessity of a polemic attitude.

According to Professor Short, "the verb in the singular after a compound subject" "is rare" in "modern English"; and he seems to be dissatisfied with Dr. Liddon for writing: "All this and much else *appears* to forbid," etc. As he draws no distinctions, would he scruple an expression on the type of "milk and water *is* a harmless beverage"? Referring to Milton's "where *flows* Ganges and Indus," Walter Savage Landor³ observes: "The small fry will carp at this, which is often an elegance, but oftener in Greek than in Latin, in Latin than in French, in French than in English." Let Landor say what he may, there is, nevertheless, to what he would have called the degenerate ears of later days, something inevitably grating in the locution which he adduces;⁴ and an imitation of it

¹ *Vide supra*, pp. 141-169.

² Witness, for instance, Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood's "Contested Etymologies in the Dictionary of the Rev. W. W. Skeat," just published.

³ *Works and Life* (1876), Vol. IV, p. 460.

⁴ Still worse is the following, in which one would, in an ordinary case, presume a typographical error: "Scythia and Tartary *has*, each, its characteristic breed of horse." Professor F. W. Newman, *Miscellanies* (1869), p. 201.

As a whole, Professor Newman's English is arrestingly eccentric, above all for its independence of idiom.

would no longer be tolerated.⁵ At the same time, since countless

⁵ Indeed, even in the days of English much quainter than Milton's, "*flows* Ganges and Indus," in which the compound subject consists of proper names, would have been objected to, though precedents for "*flows* milk and honey," and for "*flows* waters," were long extremely common. Somewhat less common, however, in older English,—dialectal excepted,—are expressions like "*waters flows*," where the verb is not protactic. Specimens of them,—which might be headed with quotations from Chaucer, from writings attributed to Wyclif, and from other sources,—are subjoined :

"I kepe the stremys and the waters that *rennyys* to Paradice." Anon. (fifteenth century), in *Letters of Queen Margaret of Anjou*, etc., p. 166 (Camden Society, 1863).

"And there, thorough mysgovernance, the carikes, with alle the good therinne, *was* brent." Anon., *A Chronicle of London*, etc. (1442-1483), p. 89 (1827).

"And thes dedys of armys *was* for lyffe and dethe." William Gregory (? about 1469?), in *Historical Collections*, etc., p. 236 (Camden Society, 1876).

"Lyke a spere, it perced the hertes of all her true servauntes that *was* about her." Bp. Fisher (1509), *English Works*, Part I (1876), p. 300.

"And she sayth playnly that the Duk and the lords *is* together, and comyth forth of Edinburgh this same day." Sir William Bulmer (1523) in Sir Henry Ellis's *Original Letters*, etc., Third Series (1846), Vol. I, p. 328.

"Other capiteins *has* "; "the warkes *is* done "; "the souldours forsaide *has* advertised me." Thomas, Lord Dacre (1523 and 1524), in *State Papers*, etc., Vol. IV (1836), pp. 65, 66, 75.

"Thadventures that *was* fallen "; "his wordes *was* nat byleved "; "all these wordes that *was* bytwene . . . *was* come," etc.; "many dedes of armes there *was* done "; "xl. thousande frankes *was* gadered "; "his revenewes *was* therby augmented "; "their wylls *was* to have him kyngc." Lord Berners, *Froissart* (1523-1525), Vol. I, pp. 15, 81, 109, 202, 729; Vol. II, pp. 635, 752 (ed. 1812).

"His fortunes *is* base." *Id.*, *The Golden Boke*, etc. (1534), sig. Aa 3 r. (ed. 1546).

"Many great conflyctes *was* betwene them." John Rastell, *The Pastyme of People* (1529), p. 172 (ed. 1811).

"For the world loveth all that are of the world, and hateth all things that *is* contrary to it." "My first-fruits, reparations, and solutions of my debts *amounts* to seventeen hundred pounds." "I dare say a thousand *was* the fewest that with joy left their houses and *lives* here." Bp. Hugh Latimer (1530, 1538, and 1555), *Sermons and Remains* (1845), pp. 412, 437.

"Few men *shotes* "; "horses . . . *lettes* and *troubles* one another "; "they *stresses* not a shaft much "; "two maner of arrowe heades, sayeth Pollux, *was* used in olde tyme." Roger Ascham, *Toxophilus* (1545), pp. 48, 89, 126, 135 (ed. 1868).

"Some *sighes* out their wordes. Some *singes* their sentences. Some *laughes* altogether, when thei speake to any body. Some *gruntes* like a hogge. Some *cackles* like a henne or a jacke daw. Some *speakes* as though thei should tell a tale in their sleve. Some *cries* out so loude that thei would make a mannes eares ake to heare them." Sir Thomas Wilson, *The Arte of Rhetorike* (1553),

quotations from reputable authors of the last hundred years, generically parallel, for their concord, to that for which Dr. Liddon is cited, are, as every observant philologist well knows, producible, is Professor Short warranted in designating their grammar as "rare"? For the subjoined fifty-seven testimonies adverse to that view I have made, by the by, no special quest whatever:

"Less and less *is* done." Dr. Johnson (1783), in *Letters to and from*, etc. (1788), Vol. II, p. 278.

"The difficulty and controversy now *was*, to determine to which of these four classes each word belonged." Rev. John Horne Tooke, *Diversions of Purley*, Part I (1786), p. 21 (ed. 1798).

"All this stratagem and mystery *looks* very much like some scheme contrived by love." Mrs. Elizabeth Inchbald, *Child of Nature* (1788), Act I, Scene I.

fol. 112 (ed. 1567). The first edition, also, that of 1553, has been consulted, for the greater certainty.

"Yet was the charges the king's, the which *was* no small sums of money." George Cavendish, *Life of Cardinal Wolsey* (about 1560), Vol. I, p. 141 (Mr. Singer's edition).

"White teeth *is* a good sight in a woman." Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtyer* (1561), sig. F 2 r. (ed. 1577).

"Great consultations *was* had upon this request." Rev. Edmund Campian, *A Historie of Ireland* (1571), p. 44 (ed. 1809).

"Yet their temple, sacrifices, ceremonies, law, and doctrine, *was* good." Rev. Dr. William Fulke, *Stapleton's Fortress Overthrown*, etc. (1580), p. 38 (ed. 1848, Parker Society).

"Those actes, . . . the which long since *is* past"; "those matters of the Indyas, the which *was* done"; "the Indias *is* frequented by the Portingales"; "those battayles that *was* done"; "neyther yet kinges nor captaines of none of all these nations *was* so equall in force"; "the charges that *is* daylye done there." Nicholas Lichfield, *The First Booke of the Historie*, etc. (1582), Prologue. Shakespeare, also, might be quoted largely here, if space allowed.

In the extract from Sir Thomas Wilson, "some," as the contexts show, is not for "some one," a use which, though not seen in his pages, is found in Lord Bacon and in the Bible. It looks as though we there had a colloquialism. Compare "you *was*," which, in an informal style, was not beneath Dr. Hawkesworth, Horace Walpole. Cowper, and Lord Byron.

As to the passage from Sir Thomas Hoby, I am not unaware that its verb may be regarded as owing its number to the attraction of "sight." Let it be taken, then, as furnishing a sample of an interesting outworn idiom with which I am not now specially concerned. Older books abound with like constructions. Fulke (*ut supra*) has, at p. 25: "Idleness and vain ceremonies *is* the exercise of popish monks."

The northern third person plural of most verbs once ended in -s; and a survival of that ending may, possibly, be traceable in Latimer's, Ascham's, Sir Thomas Wilson's, and Shakespeare's plurals, *amounts, troubles, cries, poisons*, etc. But *is, has* and *was*, as plurals, and Ascham's "you *lettes*" (*Toxophilus, ut supra*, p. 120), have no sure warrant in early English.

"All I had heard of his eloquence, and all I had conceived of his great abilities, *was* more than answered by his performance." Madame D'Arblay (1788), *Diary and Letters*, Vol. IV, p. 95 (ed. 1842, etc.).

"The engagement and pact of society, which generally *goes* by the name of the constitution, *forbids* such invasion and such surrender." "The unbought grace of life, the cheap defence of nations, the nurse of manly sentiment and heroic enterprise, *is* gone." "Already there *appears* a poverty of conception, a coarseness and vulgarity, in all the proceedings," etc. Edmund Burke, *Reflections*, etc. (1790), pp. 28, 113, 118.

"My own disappointment and loss in her *is* very great." Miss Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1798), p. 171 (ed. 1866).

"I wish to be buried with as little expence and ceremony as *is* consistent with decorum and a regard to general opinion." Rev. Gilbert Wakefield (1799-1801), in *Memoirs*, etc. (1804), Vol. II, p. 306*.

"The plan and execution of the 'Friend' *is* so utterly unsuited to the public taste as to preclude all rational hopes of its success." S. T. Coleridge (1809), in the *Life and Correspondence of Robert Southey*, Vol. III, p. 259.

"The heat and exasperation of battle *was* suspended." Robert Southey, *Edinburgh Annual Register for 1809*, Part I, p. 725 (1811).

"The bread and milk *reminds* me of an anecdote connected with the fashion of those days." *Id.* (1821), in *Life and Correspondence*, Vol. I, p. 52.

"In reality, flesh and blood *is* not equal to such wear and tear as *is* exacted from an English minister in these times." *Id.* (1822), in *Selections from the Letters*, etc., Vol. III, p. 329.

"My great doubt and difficulty, at present, *is* as to the possibility and the manner of reconciling Gieseler with Schleiermacher." Bp. Connop Thirlwall (1823), *Letters* (1881), Vol. I, p. 71.

"The applause and admiration excited by certain achievements and accomplishments *infects* us with desire." William Godwin, *Thoughts on Man*, etc. (1831), p. 57.

"In history, the hero and the politician *dwindles* into a vain and feeble tyrant." Lord Macaulay (1832), *Miscellaneous Writings*, Vol. II, p. 89 (ed. 1860).

"Both what was good and what was bad in Goldsmith's character *was*, to his associates, a perfect security that he would never commit such villany." *Id.* (1856), *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 258.

"On the one side *is* health, leisure, peace of mind, the search after truth, and all the enjoyments of friendship and conversation.⁶ On the other side *is* almost certain ruin to the constitution, constant labour, constant anxiety." *Id.* (1835), in *Life and Letters*, etc., Vol. I, p. 442 (ed. 1876).

"Everywhere else *was* the thunder, and the fire running along the ground,—a very grievous storm,—a storm such as there was none like it since man was on the earth."⁷ *Id.* (1852), *Speeches*, p. 507 (ed. 1854).

⁶ I remark on this sentence in note 9 *infra*.

⁷ This imitation of old-fashioned style, with its "such as there was none like it," is not remarkably felicitous. Again, however our forefathers wrote, we should do well so to write as not to suggest the question, when man ceased to be on the earth.

In the *Selection from the Correspondence of the late Macvey Napier, Esq.*, Lord Macaulay is represented, at p. 289, as having written, in 1839: "Everything and everybody *is* languid."

From Lord Macaulay's *History* I transcribe as follows:

"The poetry and eloquence of the Augustan age *was* assiduously studied in the Anglo-Saxon monasteries." Chap. I.

"To fierce spirits, . . . it seemed, that to waylay and murder the king and his brother *was* the shortest and surest way," etc. Chap. II.

"The brilliancy of the shops and the luxury of the private dwellings far *surpasses* anything that England could then show." Chap. III.

"The difficulty and expense of conveying large packets from place to place *was* so great," etc. Chap. III.

"Every sight and sound *was* thought to indicate the approach of pursuers." Chap. V.

"To sit near him at the theatre, and to hear his criticisms on a new play, *was* regarded as a privilege." Chap. VI.

"In the neighbourhood of the little cluster of villages *was* some copsewood and some pasture-land." Chap. XVIII.

"The equipping and manning of the ships *was* urged forward with vigour." Chap. XVIII.

"There *was* far less industry and energy, among the labouring classes, than in England." Chap. XXIII.

The next quotations are from Mr. W. E. Gladstone's *Gleanings of Past Years*:

"That great intellect and heart *has* left upon record," etc. "Anything and everything *suggests* itself to him." "Great plainness and adequate freedom of speech *is* to be used." "Such as the character and efficacy of law *is* now, such, they are apt to assume, *it* always must have been." "Science, experience, . . . have reached a bulk and maturity which *displaces* religion from," etc. Vol. II, p. 308; Vol. III, p. 220; Vol. V, p. 61; Vol. VI, pp. 185, 212. These passages are dated 1876, 1878, 1843, 1875, and 1875, respectively.

"The analogy and contrast between moral and spiritual knowledge *deserves* remark." "Physical ease and comfort *is* the most valuable thing," etc. Professor F. W. Newman, *The Soul*, etc. (1849), Preface, p. viii, and p. 43.

"I found . . . that beauty and effect *was*, sometimes, largely lost," etc. *Id.*, *The Iliad of Homer*, etc. (1856), Preface, p. vii.

"Their skill, beauty, and correctness *is* immensely superior." *Id.*, *The Text of the Iguvine Inscriptions*, etc. (1864), Preface, p. vi.

"But the savage . . . adopts that mode of living which the climate and land *suggests* as easiest." *Id.*, *Miscellanies* (1869), p. 158.

"How much strength and courage *was* derived from the ministries of religion," etc. Bp. Christopher Wordsworth (1854), *Miscellanies*, etc. (1879), Vol. I, p. 254.

"The question and answer . . . *applies*," etc. "This question and answer *restrains*," etc. "This question and answer *deprives*," etc. Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, *Defence*, etc. (1862), pp. 51, 56, 59.

"Great natural energy and generosity *has* been manifested," etc. "The nature and origin of man *has* been so often fixed and unfixed," etc. Cardinal Manning, in *Essays on Religion and Literature*, First Series (1865), pp. 36, 64.

"But, in fearful truth, the presence and power of him *is* here." Mr. John Ruskin, *Time and Tide*, etc. (1867), p. 58 (ed. 1872).

"But the administrative government and real substance of power *was*, at all times, in the hands of the oligarchy." Mr. James Bryce, in *Essays on Reform* (1867), p. 255.

"As much power and labour *has* gone," etc. Mr. A. C. Swinburne, *William Blake* (1868), p. 109.

"For the former the continual presence and supervision of the maître d'étude *leaves* no place." Mr. Matthew Arnold, *Schools and Universities on the Continent* (1868), p. 80.

"With reference to it there *is* generated a voluntary activity and determination," etc. Professor A. Bain, in James Mill's *Analysis*, etc. (ed. 1869), Vol. I, p. 396.

"Nor *is* the pathetic and the tragic exhibited under less multiplicity of forms." Rev. J. S. Brewer (1871), *English Studies*, p. 260 (1881).

"It *was* such peace and freedom as *was* consistent with the position of an outlying province." Mr. E. A. Freeman, *Historical and Architectural Sketches* (1876), p. 226.

"From Greece *comes* art and literature, and, in a manner, law and freedom." *Id.*, *Historical Essays*, Second Series (1879), p. 234.

"In America, the presence of English law, and all that comes of the presence of English law, *is* something thoroughly natural and native." *Id.*, in *Longman's Magazine*, No. 1 (1882), pp. 81, 82.

Now-a-days, neither plural substantives and pronouns, nor a plural and a singular, may be nominative to a verb, protactic or hypotactic, in the singular; and herein, alone, good usage restricts us, absolutely, from the freedom, as to concord, in which our forefathers,⁸ more or less remote, allowed themselves.⁹ That considera-

⁸ They rather seldom, I think, wrote as follows: "And there *was* taken the erle of Dene, Sr Olyver Claykyn, and manye othere." Anon., *A Chronicle of London*, etc. (1442-1453?), p. 67 (1827). And similarly at pp. 86, 136, 138, 139, 141, 144, etc.

This is like Milton's "*flows* Ganges and Indus." Compare *St. Matthew*, XXVII, 56.

At p. 130 of the *Chronicle* just quoted we read: "And, in this yere, come tidynge unto the kyng, that Gascoigne and Gyan *was* lost."

It is not very often, I should say, that two or more proper names are found constructed in like manner.

⁹ Most of what, gauged by later usage, are concordial licences of theirs, have, from heedlessness, found their way, here and there, into the pages of moderns.

"All proportions, every arrangement of quantity, *is* alike to the understanding," etc. Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry*, etc., pp. 165, 166 (ed. 1761), or p. 141 (ed. 1792).

"And history is thus a part of that great revolution which all arts, all sciences, and all literature *is* gradually unfolding before our eyes." Rev. J. S. Brewer (n. d.), *English Studies*, p. 381 (1881).

Compare *Proverbs*, XVI, 1. The first sentence of the passage which I have already taken from the *Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay* differs from the pas-

tions of euphony, however, may be surmised to operate, now and then, consciously or unconsciously, as determinants of choice, in the matter under discussion, is not to be denied.

With regard to the archaism observable in "all the region about Jordan," Professor Short says: "This omission of the article with the name of a river has been quite obsolete for a long period." Well-known phrases like "from Tweed to Tay," or Mr. Ruskin's "by Weare and Tyne," are, of themselves, enough to disable that dictum; but conclusively irreconcilable with it, and not to be left out of account, in pronouncing on the English of England, are such current territorial names as the five and twenty, selected from upwards of thrice that number, about to be specified:

Stratford-on-Avon,¹⁰ Burgh-upon-Bain, Aston-on-Clun, Bolton-upon-Deane, Sutton-upon-Derwent, Kingston-upon-Hull, Barrow-on-Humber, Barton-on-Irwell, Sheffield-upon-Loddon, Ashton-upon-Mersey, Newton-upon-Ouse, Ashton-on-Ribble, Frampton-upon-Severn, Shipston-on-Stour, Brompton-upon-Swale, Stockton-on-Tees, Clifton-upon-Teme, Stoke-upon-Tern, Henley-on-Thames, Burton-upon-Trent, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Skelton-on-Ure, Staunton-upon-Wye. And compare Stanton-by-Bridge, Weston-under-Red Castle, Stanton-by-Dale, Sutton-on-Forest, Ashton-under-Hill, Kingston-upon-Railway, Grange-over-Sands, Westgate-on-Sea.

On the word of Professor Short, the pleonastic forms *from hence*, *from thence*, *from henceforth*, and *from whence* "interchange with the simple forms *hence*, *thence*, *henceforth*, and *whence*, in the best English of all periods." If the best English of our century agrees, in sanctioning those pleonasms, with the best English of bygone centuries, proofs of such agreement ought, it is submitted, to have been offered. Who is there, it may be asked, among accredited contemporary stylists, that, having committed any one of them,

sages just quoted, in that its verb is protactic. Like that sentence are *Jeremiah*, VI, 7, and *Hebrews*, IX, 4. Innumerable, in older books, are expressions similar to "There *was* ten men there." Compare *Ezekiel*, II, 10.

"There *has* been a simplicity and humility in his letters that *have* been very delightful." Archdeacon J. C. Hare (1843), in the *Life and Correspondence of Dr. Whewell*, p. 290.

This mode of writing was once very far from being unusual. For something nearly akin to it, see the *Psalms*, LXXXIX, 15, and *Proverbs*, XXX, 12.

¹⁰ Peculiarly interesting is the name of another town on the Avon, Bradford-on-Avon, a name which, within living memory, has, by an Act of Parliament, been substituted for the simple Bradford. No one in England is conscious of any archaism in "Bradford-on-Avon"; and the hiatus in "Bradford-on-the-Avon" would not have been endured.

would not, probably, on its being pointed out, admit that it had escaped him through inadvertence?

Professor Short's list of certain expressions "perhaps not to be objected *against*" can hardly be supplemented by the superannuated phrase which he substitutes for "objected *to*." A few lines after "objected *against*" occurs the quite unnecessary, however popular, innovation, "*over* four centuries ago"; and elsewhere he has the wholly disused "we will instance *in* a single writer." Nor is he at all aware that Dr. Liddon's "*it*, too, grows," is a gross Scotticism. Yet he notifies his dislike of the still familiar "*in* the way," for "*on* the way," because "it is now commonly used of an obstruction"; as if the context would not instantly guide one to the signification it is meant to bear. Apparently, it is very exceptional to meet with a countryman of ours who has not erroneous notions and little pet crotchets touching what is, or what ought to be, acceptable living English, and who is not ready, when they are challenged, with untenable arguments in support of them; and it is all but unavoidable that a home-staying American should judge of our language otherwise than an educated Englishman judges of it. General rectitude of linguistic discretion set aside, it has, hence, conspicuously come to pass, that, though the English Revisionists have often erred in questions of taste and expedience, their American collaborators have therein erred incomparably oftener.

The kind of repetition found in "cast *out* the mote *out* of" is, if Professor Short may be trusted, "very rare" in English.¹¹ Unfortunately, it is not very rare to have to do with gratuitous certitude like that of which we here have a sample. Doubtless, the learned Professor would think it rash, in a person who had given but little attention to Latin, to make a corresponding assertion as to any idiom in that language. For the style of duplication instanced

¹¹ This epithet recurs, where Professor Short calls *whiles* "a very rare old genitive of the noun *while*, used adverbially." Since I began the present page, I have quite accidentally discovered an instance of that genitive. "That done, after some *whiles* meditation," etc. Bp. Joseph Hall (1610), *Works*, p. 347 (ed. 1648). And it would not surprise me, if I chanced upon half a dozen other instances of it within the next six months.

What have we, too, if not the old genitive of *while*, in the adverbial phrases "a *whiles*," "a great *whiles*," "one *whiles*," "the *whiles*," "in the mean *whiles*," "this mean *whiles*," "within a good *whiles*"? Instances of them all are before me; and some of them are not two centuries old. Like "a long *ways*," "a great *whiles*" still lives in vulgar English speech.

above, and a slight variation thereof, I subjoin perhaps one in ten of the references which lie heaped before me :

At . . . at. Bp. Latimer (1535), pp. 368-369 (*ut supra*). Thomas, Lord Vaux (died 1562), *The Assault of Cupid*, etc.

By . . . by. Sir Thomas Malory, *La Mort Darthur* (1469), Vol. I, p. 303, and Vol. II, p. 323 (Southey's edition).

In . . . in. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 298. William Gregory (? about 1469?), in *Historical Collections*, etc., p. 87 (Camden Society, 1876). William Tyndale (1528), in *Doctrinal Treatises*, etc. (1848), p. 134. Bp. Latimer (1530 and 1538), pp. 300, 399 (*ut supra*). Abp. Cranmer (1537), *Miscellaneous Writings*, etc. (1846), p. 351. Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtyer* (1561), sig. Q 7 v. (ed. 1577). Rev. Dr. Thomas Stapleton, *A Fortresse of the Faith*, etc. (1565), fol. 79. Robert Parke, *Historie of . . . China*, etc. (1588), p. 262. Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*, Act II, Scene I; *Timon of Athens*, Act II, Scene II.

Of . . . of. Anon., *Merlin* (1450-1460?), p. 106. Henry Wyndesore (1455), in the *Paston Letters* (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 345. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. I, pp. 148-149, 341; Vol. II, p. 81. Lord Berners, *Froissart* (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 759. Bp. Latimer (1535?), p. 367 (*ut supra*). Nicholas Lichefield, *The First Booke of the Historie*, etc. (1582), fol. 84 r. Dr. Timothy Bright, *A Treatise of Melancholy* (1586), pp. 139, 166. Robert Parke (*ut supra*), p. 184. Thomas Danett, *The Historie of Philip de Commines* (1596), p. 28 (ed. 1614).

On . . . on. Shakespeare, *All's Well*, etc., Act I, Scene II.

Out . . . out. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 45. Anon. (1568), in the *Archaeologia*, Vol. XXXI (1846), p. 463.

To . . . to. William Caxton, *Chesse* (1474), Tractate III, Chap. VIII. Sir John Paston (1477), in the *Paston Letters* (*ut supra*), Vol. III, p. 173. Lord Berners, *Froissart* (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 286. Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*, Act V, Scene I.

With . . . with. Abp. Parker (1559), *Correspondence*, etc., p. 62 (Parker Society).

In . . . into. Anon. (1568), in the *Archaeologia*, Vol. XXXI (1846), p. 465.

Of . . . fro. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 50.

Of . . . on. Roger Ascham, *Toxophilus* (1545), p. 110 (ed. 1868). Robert Parke (*ut supra*), p. 327.

Of . . . over. Anon. (1426), in *Letters of Queen Margaret of Anjou*, etc., p. 33 (Camden Society, 1863).

On . . . by. Samuel Pepys (1665), *Diary*, etc., Vol. III, p. 308 (ed. 1876).

Over . . . of. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 121.

To . . . unto. *Id.*, Vol. II, p. 329. Abp. Cranmer (1533), p. 250 (*ut supra*). Rev. Dr. Thomas Stapleton, *A Fortresse*, etc. (*ut supra*), fol. 133, 135-136. Sir Thomas North, *Dial of Princes*, sig. †* 4 v. (ed. 1568).

Wherein . . . in. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. II, p. 312. Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act II, Scene VII.

With . . . withal. Sir Thomas Malory (*ut supra*), Vol. II, pp. 109-110. Bp. Latimer (1538), p. 406 (*ut supra*).

At variance with what Professor Short seems to imply, it may

confidently be maintained, that, in "moth and rust *doth*,"¹²—the eligibility of retaining which in the Scriptures I do not discuss,—there was not, in the age of King James's Revisers, as there is in our age, an unquestionable case of "a verb in the singular after a compound subject." The form *hath*, for instance, succeeded both *hafað* and *hafiað*, the third person singular and the plural, respectively, of the present indicative of *habban*; and, in its character of third person plural,¹³ it was slow in passing out of vogue. That the Jacobean Revisers refused to adopt the plurals *hath*, *doth*,¹⁴ etc.,

¹² Tyndale, says Professor Short, is among those who "have the verb in the plural here." This, from the Professor's point of view, gives a wrong impression; for Tyndale has "rust and mothes *corrupte*."

¹³ We have not to go very far back for *-th* as, occasionally, the termination of the first and second persons plural. "We . . . alwaie have ben, *beeth*, and ever shal be," etc. Anon. (temp. Hen. V), in the *Letters of Queen Margaret*, etc. (*ut supra*), p. 22. "Ye . . . that *hathe*," etc. Robert Hungerford, Lord Moleyns (1449), in the *Paston Letters* (*ut supra*), Vol. I, p. 80. "Ze *wryteth*, in your letter," etc. Sir John Paston (1469), *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 369. "Ze *hath* not sent it," etc. Margery Paston (1489), *ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 349. "Ye . . . *hath* the keyes in your warde." Anon., *Cronycle of Englonde* (1483), 71 v. (ed. 1510). "And you have been so good, and *hath* shewed your goodness," etc. "And, sir, you be, indeed, sciens artifex, and *hath* a good hand," etc. Bp. Latimer (1538 and 1539), pp. 394, 416 (*ut supra*). Also (1539), p. 422. "Ye yourself *hath* begun," etc. Bp. John Jewel (1560), *Works* (ed. 1845-1850), Vol. I, p. 66. "Yourselfe *hath* confessed the same." Bp. Edmund Geste (1568), in the *Archaeologia*, Vol. XXXI (1846), p. 466. But it is possible that, with Bishop Geste, "hath" is for "has," from the influence of "selfe." For we elsewhere find: "And I think you yourself *is* not ignorant therein." Bp. Latimer (1536), p. 373 (*ut supra*). "Your selfe *is* of fleshe." William Painter, *The Palace of Pleasure* (1575), Vol. I, p. 171 (ed. 1813); and again in Vol. I, p. 340. Similar is: "Myself *is* occupied," William Fleetwood (1577), in Sir Henry Ellis's *Original Letters*, etc., Second Series (1827), Vol. III, p. 56.

The first and second persons singular also were sometimes made to end in *-th*. Several instances are at hand of "I *hath*" in the time of Hen. VII; and I have found "I *doth*" used in the time of Hen. VIII. Bishop Geste, in the page referred to above, has "thou *hath*."

¹⁴ It would be a heavy task to indicate all the forthcoming passages which go to show that such plurals, of the third person, and preceded by plural subjects, were by no means unexampled in the Elizabethan era. Here are a few references in point:

Maketh, hath. Sir Thomas North, *Dial of Princes* (1557), fol. 49 v. and 55 v. (ed. 1568). *Lieth, hath.* George Cavendish (1558), Vol. II, p. 160 (*ut supra*). *Knoweth.* *Id.* (about 1560), *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 130. *Goeth, doth, hath.* Abp. Parker (1559-1573), *Correspondence* (*ut supra*), pp. 62, 304, 326, 379, 438. *Hath.* Bp. John Jewel (1560), *Works* (*ut supra*), Vol. I, pp. 18, 25. *Telleth.* Dr. Henry Cole (1560), *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 38. *Hath.* Sir Thomas Hoby, *The Courtyer* (*ut*

in contexts of various descriptions,—as in concord with pronouns or proper names,—but did not hesitate at “moth and rust *doth* corrupt,” “distress and anguish *cometh*,” “my flesh and my heart *faileth*,”¹⁵ and the like, was in harmony with the fashion of their period; and their period was one in which a slight archaism, especially if it conduced to an agreeable rhythm, was often held to constitute passably orthodox syntax. Incidentally, a curious fact, mentioned by a grammarian of the time of the Commonwealth, may account, in a measure, for the continuation of the habit of yoking two or more substantives with what have come to be, exclusively, singular verbs. Richard Hodges,¹⁶ discoursing on the customs of “our ordinary speech,” states, that, “howsoever wee

supra, sig. F 4 v. *Sayeth*. John Heywood, *Proverbs and Epigrams* (1562), p. 31 (ed. 1867). *Hath, dieth*. Rev. Dr. Thomas Stapleton, *History of the Church of Englande* (1565), fol. 14. *Hath*. Rev. Dr. William Fulke, *Stapleton's Fortress Overthrown*, etc. (*ut supra*), p. 122. *Doth* (*quinquies*), *hath* (*bis*). Nicholas Lichfield, *The First Booke of the Historie*, etc. (1582), Prologue. *Cometh*. *Id.*, *ibid.*, fol. 127. *Deserveth*. Reginald Scot, *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* (1584), p. 49. *Causeth*. T. B., *The French Academie* (1586), p. 53 (ed. 1589). *Doth*. Bp. Gervase Babington, *A Profitable Exposition*, etc. (1588), p. 31 (ed. 1615). *Hath, doth, cometh*. Robert Parke, *Historie of . . . China*, etc. (1588), pp. 21, 317, 327. *Doth, hath*. Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*, Act III, Scene II; *Winter's Tale*, Act I, Scene I.

The third person plural *doth*, employed protactically, lingered on at least to the middle of the seventeenth century.

“How *doth* our eies see,” etc. Rev. Dr. Thomas Wright, *The Passions of the Minde in Generall* (1601), p. 304 (ed. 1621).

“How *doth* grammarians hack and slash for the genitive case in Jupiter!” Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici* (1643), p. 136 (ed. 1645).

“How ill *doth* green thoughts suit with gray heads!” Rev. Dr. Thomas Fuller, *A Pisgah-sight of Palestine* (ed. 1650), Books IV, V, p. 58.

¹⁵ In Isaiah, VIII, 6, the Jacobean revisers put, after “people,” “*refuseth . . . and rejoyce*.” Euphony may have prompted this kind of irregularity, alike with them and with some of their precursors. Coverdale, Matthew, and Cranmer have “*refuseth . . . and put* their delite”; while the reading of the Genevan version is “*hathe refused . . . and rejoyce*.” In the sixteenth century, and even later, writers at times indulged in the like of “*refuseth . . . and rejoyce*,” considering one exhibition of the longer termination as enough for both verbs.

¹⁶ *The Plainest Directions for the True Writing of English*, etc. (1649), p. 60.

Elsewhere he gives *coats* and *quoteth*, *boughs* and *boweth*, *clawes* and *claweth* *choose* and *cheweth*, etc., etc., as alike in sound.

If, conversely, the terminal *-s* was heard as *-th*, Ascham's “you *lettes*” was one with the less unexpected “you *letteth*.” See the end of note 5 *supra*, and note 13.

write them thus, *leadeth* it, *maketh* it, *noteth* it," for example, "wee say *lead's* it, *make's* it, *note's* it."

In the sphere of philology, as elsewhere, the cogency of facts being greater than that of intuitions, the foregoing evidences of usage will not, as estimated by those who value scientific truth, have been collected superfluously.

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